

## PRESS RELEASE

2004 Louisiana Crop Acreage & Production - January

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### After 2003 Records, Louisiana's 2004 Crop Year Disappoints

Louisiana farmers faced uncertainty and uncooperative weather conditions during most of the 2004 crop year. "Although yields didn't turn out as good as in 2003, most crops still fared better than we anticipated early in the season," said Sammye Crawford, Deputy Director of the Louisiana Agricultural Statistics Service. "Cotton yields were much stronger than we expected during the summer, and the hay yield is a new state record."

**Cotton** production is estimated at 885,000 bales, down 14 percent from the previous year. An estimated 500,000 acres were planted in 2004, down 5 percent from last year. Louisiana farmers harvested an estimated 490,000 acres, down 4 percent from last year. Yield per acre was 867 pounds, a decrease of 100 pounds from 2003, but still the second highest yield on record in the state. Upland cotton production for the U.S. is estimated at a record high 22.3 million bales, 25 percent more than last year's production.

**All rice** production is estimated at 28.5 million cwt, up 8 percent from 2003. Production of long grain varieties is estimated at 27.9 million cwt, and production of medium grain varieties is estimated at 650,000 cwt. The planted acreage estimate for rice was 538,000 acres, up 18 percent from 2003. An estimated 533,000 acres of rice was harvested, up 18 percent from 2003. The statewide yield averaged 5,350 pounds per acre, down 520 pounds from last year's record yield. U.S. production is estimated at a record high 231 million cwt, up 15 percent from last year.

**Soybean** production is estimated at 32.7 million bushels, up 30 percent from 2003. Total planted acreage was 1,100,000 acres, up 45 percent from 2003. Louisiana farmers harvested an estimated 990,000 acres, up 250,000 acres from last year. Yield was 33 bushels per acre, down 1 bushel from last year's record yield. U.S. soybean production is estimated at 3.14 billion bushels, the largest U.S. soybean crop in history.

Production of **corn for grain** is estimated at 55.4 million bushels, down 17 percent from 2003. Total planted acreage was estimated at 420,000 acres, down 19 percent from 2003. An estimated 410,000 acres were harvested for grain, down 18 percent from 2003. Yield per acre, at 135 bushels, was up 1 bushel up from 2003. U.S. corn production is estimated at 11.8 billion bushels, up 17 percent from 2003.

Production of **sorghum for grain** is estimated at 5.2 million bushels compared to 14.0 million in 2003. Total planted acreage was estimated at 85,000 acres, of which 80,000 acres were harvested for grain. This was the lowest planted acreage since 1980 when the state planted 32,000 acres. Yield per acre, at 65 bushels, was down 20 bushels from 2003. U.S. production for the 2004 sorghum crop is estimated at 455 million bushels, 11 percent above 2003.

**Sugarcane** production for sugar and seed is estimated at 11.2 million net tons, down 13 percent from 2003. An estimated 465,000 acres were harvested, down 5 percent from 2003. Net yield, which estimated at 24 tons per acre, is the lowest since 1993 when a yield of 22.8 net tons per acre was reported. U.S. production of sugarcane for sugar and seed in 2004 is estimated at 29.3 million tons, 13 percent below last year's 33.9 million tons.

**Sweet potato** production is estimated at 2.3 million cwt, down 26 percent from 2003. An estimated 16,000 acres were planted in 2004, down 16 percent from 2003. Harvested acreage was estimated at 15,500 acres, down 14 percent from last year. The statewide yield averaged 150 cwt per acre, down 25 cwt from last year's record yield. U.S. production is estimated at 16.4 million cwt, up 3 percent from last season and 28 percent above 2002.

**All hay** production in 2004 is estimated at 1.11 million tons compared to 1.10 million the previous year. An estimated 370,000 acres were harvested in 2004, down 10,000 acres from the previous year. Yield was 3.0 tons per acre, a new state record. U.S. production is estimated at 158 million tons, up fractionally from the 2003 total.

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**CROP REPORT - LOUISIANA**  
**January 1, 2005**

| CROP                     | HARVESTED ACRES (000) |      | YIELD PER ACRE |       | UNIT       | PRODUCTION (000) |        | PERCENT CHANGE FROM 2003 |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|------|----------------|-------|------------|------------------|--------|--------------------------|
|                          | 2003                  | 2004 | 2003           | 2004  |            | 2003             | 2004   |                          |
| Corn for grain           | 500                   | 410  | 134            | 135   | bushels    | 67,000           | 55,350 | -17                      |
| Upland Cotton            | 510                   | 490  | 967            | 867   | lbs: bales | 1,027            | 885    | -14                      |
| Rice                     | 450                   | 533  | 5,870          | 5,350 | lbs: cwt   | 26,397           | 28,522 | +8                       |
| Sorghum for grain        | 165                   | 80   | 85             | 65    | bushels    | 14,025           | 5,200  | -63                      |
| Soybeans                 | 740                   | 990  | 34             | 33    | bushels    | 25,160           | 32,670 | +30                      |
| Sugarcane (sugar & seed) | 490                   | 465  | 26.2           | 24.0  | net tons   | 12,838           | 11,160 | -13                      |
| Sweet Potatoes           | 18                    | 15.5 | 175            | 150   | cwt        | 3,150            | 2,325  | -26                      |
| Hay, all                 | 380                   | 370  | 2.9            | 3.0   | tons       | 1,102            | 1,110  | +1                       |

**CROP REPORT - UNITED STATES**  
**January 1, 2005**

| CROP                     | HARVESTED ACRES (000) |        | YIELD PER ACRE |       | UNIT       | PRODUCTION (000) |            | PERCENT CHANGE FROM 2003 |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|--------|----------------|-------|------------|------------------|------------|--------------------------|
|                          | 2003                  | 2004   | 2003           | 2004  |            | 2003             | 2004       |                          |
| Corn for grain           | 70,944                | 73,632 | 142.2          | 160.4 | bushels    | 10,089,222       | 11,807,217 | +17                      |
| Upland Cotton            | 11,826                | 12,809 | 723            | 835   | lbs: bales | 17,822.9         | 22,270.0   | +25                      |
| Rice                     | 2,997                 | 3,325  | 6,670          | 6,942 | lbs: cwt   | 199,897          | 230,818    | +15                      |
| Sorghum for grain        | 7,798                 | 6,517  | 52.7           | 69.8  | bushels    | 411,237          | 454,899    | +11                      |
| Soybeans                 | 72,476                | 73,958 | 33.9           | 42.5  | bushels    | 2,453,665        | 3,140,996  | +28                      |
| Sugarcane (sugar & seed) | 992.3                 | 952.1  | 34.1           | 30.8  | net tons   | 33,858           | 29,295     | -13                      |
| Sweet Potatoes           | 92.6                  | 93.3   | 172            | 176   | cwt        | 15,891           | 16,399     | +3                       |
| Hay, all                 | 63,383                | 61,916 | 2.49           | 2.55  | tons       | 157,585          | 157,774    | ---                      |

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